

The Earliest Settlers of Linn County [Snow Storm; Hon. J. A. Kasson]

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mosquitoes which the early settler could not keep out of his rudely constructed cabin. The pioneer's "castle" was usually a one-story building, fourteen by sixteen or eighteen feet long, with two small windows, a door, and a stick and mud chimney. This limited space frequently served for kitchen, dining and sleeping rooms, and the place where "Nancy Jane received her best fellow on Sunday nights." The outbuildings were rudely constructed stables, covered with prairie hay, and the domestic animals usually had but little shelter from the piercing winds and chilly snow storms of midwinter.

The writer has adverted to some incidents, in the foregoing sketch of pioneer life, which came under his personal observation and experience, though not among the earliest settlers, having come to the county in the early part of May, 1844.

BERTRAM TOWNSHIP, LINN CO., IOWA, July, 1899.

SNOW STORM.—One of the severest snow storms ever known in Northern Iowa, visited this vicinity last week. Snow fell to the depth of about twelve inches, but most of it lies in drifts varying from two to six feet in height. The roads were badly blockaded, and our mails were delayed somewhat, but most of our lines of stages are now making trips with their accustomed regularity.—*Ft. Dodge Republican*, December 23, 1863.

HON. J. A. KASSON, after remaining two or three days with his old friends, left on the stage yesterday morning for Washington city. His numerous acquaintances here were much gratified to see him. He is a gentleman whom we are willing to trust as a representative of Iowa anywhere on the two continents.—*Daily State Register (Des Moines)*, January 18, 1862.

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